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Julie Munroe  
BI Analyst II – Government Programs  
4001 N Rodney Parham Rd  
Little Rock, AR 72212

(501) 748-4792  
Julie.munroe@windstream.com



May 8, 2019

Mr. Michael Hybl  
Executive Director  
Nebraska Public Service Commission  
300 The Atrium, 1200 "N" Street  
Lincoln, NE 68508C

**RE: In the Matter of the Nebraska Public Service Commission, on its own Motion to administer the Universal Service Fund High-Cost Program: Windstream Nebraska, Inc. Broadband Grant Requests**

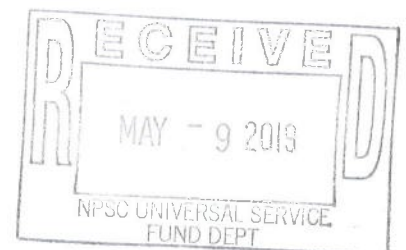
Dear Mr. Hybl:

Windstream Nebraska, Inc. hereby submits the attached application for broadband funding from the Nebraska Universal Service Fund (NUSF) for a Fixed Wireless project to serve the Northern area of Bennet, NE ILEC Exchange. Specifically, Windstream proposes to place equipment at one remote Base Station approximately 5.3 miles north of the Bennet Central Office, and equipment at the Central Office. The Bennet remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Bennet Central Office. If you have any questions or require any additional information, please let me know.

Sincerely,

Julie Munroe

Enclosures



WINSTREAM NEBRASKA, INC.

NUSF-99 PRICE CAP APPLICATION – Bennet EXCHANGE RL08

**Checklist Item No. 1:**

A description of the proposed broadband project including download/upload speed capabilities which can be provided and a description of the proposed network infrastructure to be deployed. Minimum speed standards should be 4 mbps download and 1 mbps upload.

Windstream's Response:

Windstream submits the following project for the Commission's consideration of NUSF-99 broadband funding, to be constructed upon funding approval, using funding available from the 2017 funding allocation.

- Fixed Wireless to serve the Northern area of Bennet, NE ILEC Exchange (Partial funding requested)

The Central Office for Bennet is currently connected with interoffice fiber facilities. Customers within reach of the office are qualified for 4Mbps down / 1Mbps upload broadband or better (up to 100Mbps), depending on the copper loop length from the equipment. This project intends to address those customers in the Northern area of the exchange that have exceptionally long loop lengths and therefore have no broadband or limited broadband availability (less than 25Mbps) by providing a Fixed Wireless solution.

- The project will place equipment at one remote Base Station approximately 5.3 miles north of the Bennet Central Office, and equipment at the Central Office.
- The Bennet remote Base Station will provide the broadband connection to the customers, and have fiber backhaul to the Bennet Central Office.

These network upgrades will enable a network capable of minimum speeds of 10Mbps download and 1Mbps upload for all impacted customers and depending upon the distance from the remote Base Station, the majority of customers will have speeds of 25Mbps and up to 100Mbps available.

Windstream projects the total deployment costs for this project is \$146,432, and Windstream is requesting Nebraska Universal Service Funding of \$48,811, the difference between the total project costs and the requested funding is because Windstream is not seeking funding for the areas funded by the FCC's Connect America Fund Phase 2 program. Windstream is requesting that the funding for this project be applied against the remaining 2017 funds allotted to Windstream.

Attached Checklist Item #6 provides a listing of the retail pricing for the broadband services Windstream will be offering in the proposed service areas. This price list is consistent with Windstream pricing for similar services in other Nebraska exchanges.

**Checklist Item No. 7:**

The company's commitment to offer broadband services to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.

Windstream Response:

If approved for funding, Windstream commits to offer broadband service to all households within the service area of the project for a minimum of five (5) years.

**Checklist Item No. 8:**

An affidavit from the company attesting 1) (a) that the area of the proposed project is a CAF II eligible area and have not refused CAF II funding, or (b) that the area of the proposed project is ineligible for CAF II funding. 2) That the company has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the area of the proposed project. 3) The truth and accuracy of all information included in the project filing.

Windstream Response:

The Affidavit of Brad Brannon is provided in Attached Checklist Item #8.

**CHECK LIST #2 CENSUS BLOCKS - Bennet Exchange RL08**

Criteria for Determining NUSF Eligibility for Census Blocks in Priority Order for Projects Using Fixed Wireless Technology:

- 1) If Census Block is CAF 2 - Not Eligible
- 2) If Census Block has Wireline Competitor with at least 10/1 broadband - Not Eligible
- 3) If Census Block Wireline Competitor is a Neighboring ILEC Sharing Service in the Census Block - Eligible
- 4) If Census Block has a Fixed Wireless Competitor with at least 10/1 Broadband but Does Not Provide Voice - Eligible
- 5) If Census Block has a Fixed Wireless Competitor that receives federal USF - Eligible
- 6) If proposal is for a wireline solution, then Fixed Wireless census blocks are counted - Eligible

Census Blocks	CAF 2 and Form 477 Status	Is Wireline Competitor a Neighboring ILEC? *	Does Fixed Wireless Competitor Qualify as Competitor? *	NUSF Eligibility	Summary	# Census Blocks	%
311090104001001	CAF2			CAF2	CAF2	28	67%
311090104001002	CAF2			CAF2	NE BB Eligible	14	33%
311090104001009	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - FW	0	0%
311090104001010	CAF2			CAF2	Competition - Other	0	0%
311090104001011	CAF2			CAF2	Total	42	100%
311090104001012	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001013	CAF2			CAF2	Eligible for Funding	14	33.3%
311090104001014	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001016	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001017	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001018	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001019	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001020	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001026	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001028	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001034	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001035	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001040	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001041	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001042	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001044	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001045	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001046	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001047	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001048	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001049	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001053	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001141	CAF2			CAF2			
311090104001003	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001015	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001023	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001024	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001025	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001036	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001037	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001038	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001039	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001043	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001055	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001054	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001056	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			
311090104001137	Competition - FW	No Wireline Competitor	N	NE BB Eligible			

**Footnotes:**

\* There are three Fixed Wireless providers per Form 477 data that provide broadband in these census blocks. Below is a table explaining why each of these providers should not be considered a valid competitor for purposes of reviewing whether each of the above census blocks should be NE BB Eligible:

Name as Used on FCC Form 477	Do they Provide Voice Service?*	Speed equal to at least 10/1?	Is Provider Unsubsidized? **	NUSF Eligibility?
Future Technologies	N	Y - 20/5	Y	NE BB Eligible
Skybeam Acquisition Corporation	Y	Y - 15/3	N	NE BB Eligible
Diode Cable Company	N	Y - 12/2	Y	NE BB Eligible

**Footnotes for Table:**

\*Windstream has contacted each of these providers' call centers and Future Technologies and Diode Cable Company said that voice services are NOT offered with fixed wireless internet service and Skybeam Acquisition Corp said they do provide voice service.  
 \*\* Skybeam Acquisition Corporation receives \$21,813 per month in Federal USF support for Nebraska per the 2nd Quarter 2019 USAC Report

**Check List #3 Subscribers - Bennet Exchange RL08**

<b>Exchange</b>	<b># Locations in Deployment Area</b>
Bennet	128

Estimated Broadband Take Rate	50%
New Broadband Subscribers	64

50% Take Rate assumption is likely low since broadband is generally not available due to long loop lengths

**Checklist Item #4 Estimated Schedule – Bennet Exchange RL08**

Proposed Schedule:

Engineering design & approval	30 Calendar Days
Site Acquisition, permitting & material acquisition	90 to 120 Calendar Days
Equipment deployment, testing, and turn-up	30 Calendar Days

Notes:

If multiple sites are involved, work activities will be conducted concurrently, so that total time for the project is 150 to 180 days

Schedule is subject to seasonal limitations regarding when construction can commence or be completed.

Check List #5 Budget & Depreciation - Bennet Exchange RL08

**Budget**

**Remote Sites**

Item	Labor	Material	Item Total	Quantity	Mat Total	Grand Total	Notes
Site Survey	\$1,000	\$0	\$1,000	1	\$0	\$1,000	
Fiber Buildout	\$700	\$300	\$1,000	1	\$300	\$1,000	Build out 100' of fiber
Desktop Planning	\$18	\$0	\$18	54	\$0	\$972	
Site Engineering	\$3,300	\$0	\$3,300	1	\$0	\$3,300	
Site Acquisition	\$10,183	\$0	\$10,183	1	\$0	\$10,183	
Power Make Ready	\$18,000	\$0	\$18,000	1	\$0	\$18,000	
95' AGL Wood Pole	\$10,000	\$23,800	\$33,800	1	\$23,800	\$33,800	
Base Station	\$4,433	\$5,513	\$9,946	4	\$22,054	\$39,784	5 GHz PtMP radio
PtP Radio	\$7,125	\$8,825	\$15,950	1	\$8,825	\$15,950	Assuming 18 GHz radio - Link Budget Calculation pending
Site Work	\$5,070	\$5,000	\$10,070	1	\$5,000	\$10,070	Placeholder for fiber + electricity work + pole mounted cabinet
Cabinet/PoE Switch	\$1,500	\$7,500	\$9,000	1	\$7,500	\$9,000	Pole-mounted
<b>Total</b>					<b>\$67,479</b>	<b>\$143,058</b>	

Tax \$67,479 5.00% \$3,374

**Grand Total \$146,432**

**Excluded**

ROW \$0  
 IDC \$67,479 5.00% \$3,374

**Total Project Costs \$146,432**  
**% of Eligible Census Blocks from Checklist #2 33.3%**  
**Requested Funding Amount \$48,811**

**Depreciation Lives**

**Life in Years**  
 Fixed Wireless Assets 45  
 Poles 33

**Check List #6 Pricing - Bennet Exchange RL08**

<b>Price for Internet Only (HSI Simple or Solo Internet)</b>				
<b>Speed</b>		<b>Standard Price</b>	<b>Current Promo</b>	<b>Net Price</b>
Up to 25Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
50Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
100Mb		\$45	\$10 off for 12 months	\$35
1 Gbps		\$75	\$20 off for 12 months	\$55

<b>Price for Internet + Bundle Phone Adder</b>				
<b>Speed</b>		<b>Standard Price</b>	<b>Current Promo</b>	<b>Net Price</b>
Up to 25Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
50Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
100Mb		\$65	\$10 off for 12 months	\$55
1 Gbps		\$95	\$20 off for 12 months	\$75

\$50 Activation Fee and Free Professional Installation



**AFFIDAVIT OF BRAD BRANNON**

I, Brad Brannon, being first duly sworn upon oath, state as follows:

1. I am currently employed by Windstream as the Vice President Consumer & Small Business - Business Intelligence. In that capacity, I am personally familiar with the company's network structure in Nebraska.
2. I have reviewed the foregoing project filing and certify that (a) the areas of the proposed project are CAF II eligible areas and have not refused CAF II funding, or the areas of the proposed project are ineligible for CAF II funding; (b) Windstream has done its due diligence to verify that comparable broadband does not already exist in the areas of the proposed project that we are requesting funding; and (c) all information included in the project filing is true and accurate to the best of my knowledge and belief.

  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 Brad Brannon

**ACKNOWLEDGMENT**

STATE OF ARKANSAS )

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COUNTY OF PULASKI

Subscribed, sworn to and acknowledged before me on this 16th day of May, 2019  
 by Brad Brannon

  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Notary Public

My Commission Expires:

1/17/2024  
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